



# ATLANTIC FLEET TRAINING AND TESTING

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/  
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
for Activities in 2025 and Beyond



## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are using best available science and methods of analysis to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with conducting training and testing activities within the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing (AFTT) Study Area, including activities that involve the use of active sonar and explosives. Most of these training and testing activities have been previously analyzed and authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and are similar to the types of activities that have been occurring in the Study Area for decades. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is participating in the NEPA process as a cooperating agency in preparation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS/OEIS).

### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

The Atlantic and Gulf coasts are invaluable marine habitats and the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard take an active role in their protection.

#### STEWARDS OF THE SEA

**As Stewards  
of the Sea, the  
Navy and Marine  
Corps are  
committed to  
protecting the  
environment while  
defending  
freedom.**

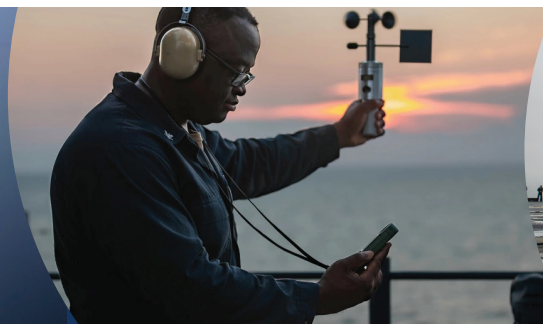
The Stewards of the Sea program is comprised of environmental stewardship initiatives to ensure the Navy and Marine Corps protect the environment while successfully accomplishing their missions. These initiatives include developing clean shipboard technologies, implementing protective measures at sea, and partnering with regulators and scientists. This program is instrumental in preserving the ocean environment for future generations.

#### NAVY AND MARINE CORPS CLIMATE INITIATIVES

The Department of the Navy's Climate Action 2030 report identifies actions the Navy and Marine Corps are taking to implement Executive Order (EO) 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis* and EO 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*. The two performance goals set in the report are (1) Build Climate Resilience - Ensure that our forces, systems, and facilities can continue to operate effectively and achieve the mission in the face of changing climate conditions, and worsening climate impacts; and (2) Reduce Climate Threat - The Department must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and draw greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere, stabilize ecosystems, and achieve, as an enterprise, the nation's commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050.

### PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Navy has developed partnerships and built coalitions with other government agencies and organizations to better manage and protect natural and cultural resources and leverage limited resources. The Navy shares common goals, objectives, and interests with environmental groups and government agencies for protecting threatened and endangered species, preserving critical habitat and open space, and promoting energy efficiency.



## COAST GUARD'S OCEAN STEWARD FRAMEWORK

The Coast Guard is committed to both enforcement and conservation through protection and recovery of healthy populations of marine mammals and support of sustainable management of federal marine protected areas.

**Effective presence:** Enforcing marine protected resource laws and regulations

**Enhanced engagement:** Leveraging the expertise and capabilities of partner agencies to craft sound, enforceable regulations and provide consistent, assertive external messaging

**Exemplary execution:** Supporting at-sea conservation activities and maintaining best practices to avoid adverse impacts to protected resources resulting from at-sea operations

## PROTECTING THE NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

The Navy and Coast Guard have taken a proactive role throughout the AFTT Study Area in the protection of the North Atlantic right whale. They established communication networks and implemented procedures to monitor, track, and avoid right whales. The Navy and Coast Guard participate in a number of cooperative efforts aimed at protecting right whales, including:

- Conducting comprehensive crew training to spot whales and providing annual reminders to personnel about the right whales' seasonal migration (generally November 15 through April 15)
- Publicizing whale sightings through an early warning system to increase awareness among ocean users
- Contributing funds for National Marine Fisheries Service overflights of the waters off Georgia and northern Florida to locate and relay information about migrating whales
- Creating and managing the Right Whale Data Fusion Center, which provides a central location for multiple parties to report whale sightings or other right whale issues
- Participating in the Northeastern and Southeastern U.S. Implementation Teams for the Recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale, which advise the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of efforts to recover endangered species and the implementation of the North Atlantic Right Whale Recovery Plan

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AT SEA

The Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard are deeply committed to protecting the environment and strive to minimize potential effects of training and testing activities. They continue to implement and improve programs to reduce a vessel's environmental footprint by:

- Preventing the introduction of non-native species through ballast water management
- Consolidating plastic waste while at sea for proper disposal ashore
- Discharging solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner
- Installing new technologies and implementing best practices to enhance energy resiliency

The Atlantic and Gulf coasts are invaluable marine habitats and the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard take an active role in their protection.



The Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard's environmental stewardship programs contribute both to the success of the military mission and the preservation of the ocean environment for future generations.

